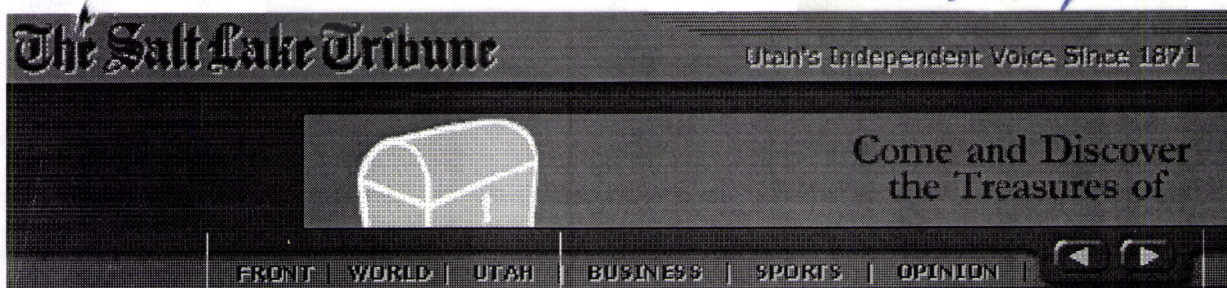


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Rolly & Wells: Same Tune: Rocks Still Roll In the Canyon

Friday, December 17, 1999

by PAUL ROLLY and
JOANN JACOBSEN- WELLS



Two weeks after contractors for the LDS Church promised Salt Lake County commissioners they would stop hauling granite for the church's new assembly hall from Little Cottonwood Canyon, the flatbed trucks still are hauling.

After we wrote last week that the trucks were still transporting the granite despite the agreement with the county that they would stop when the ski season began, the county extracted a promise that the absolute deadline would be last Monday.

When on Monday the church's contractors said they were not finished, county officials set another absolute deadline for today. If they don't meet that one, can the county take away the church's new Main Street Plaza?

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Real Story Revealed

Now that House Speaker Marty Stephens' coup attempt against Gov. Mike Leavitt has fizzled, here are some revelations about the two-week rebellion:

-- Stephens justified the coup by complaining Leavitt governed by polls rather than principle. He then conducted his own poll to see how he stood with Republicans.

-- Stephens told GOP insiders he was tired of Leavitt putting his own spin on everything. But when Stephens learned his coup attempt had been leaked to the press and would be in the newspaper the next day, he called a television reporter to break the story himself -- with his own spin.

-- Stephens complained that Leavitt hired too many Democrats, or at least people not loyal to the Republican Party. One of Stephens' key advisers during the coup attempt was US West operative and former Salt Lake County Commissioner Dave Watson -- a Democrat.

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More Utah Politics

After outgoing Salt Lake City Councilwoman Deeda Seed led the 4-3 vote against the east-west light rail line up 400 South to the University of Utah, she indicated that if certain conditions were met she might reconsider.

Mayor-elect Rocky Anderson, for whom Seed campaigned after resigning as campaign manager for mayoral candidate Jim Bradley, has lobbied hard for the east-west link since he was elected. When the council voted unanimously to approve the east-west link Wednesday, nothing really had changed -- except that Seed was